

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SUMMER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IN PRAGUE



Academic Calendar

Students arrivals: June 18, 2012
Orientation: June 19, 2012
Opening dinner: June 21, 2012
First day of classes: June 20, 2012
Exams: July 31 - August 1, 2012
End of the program: August 1, 2012
Departures: August 2 – 3, 2012

For questions & application contact RITA KORYAN (r-koryan@northwestern.edu) Call: 847 467 1152
Visit: <http://www.bcics.northwestern.edu/summerabroad/prague/>

Introduction:

Central Europe is one of the most intriguing areas of the European Continent, and is an ideal point of reference for viewing the changes and challenges of today Europe.

Recent years have brought this region to the world's attention again, but Central Europe's significance can be traced back far beyond the recent events. Located at the very geo-political divide between the East and the West, this part of Europe has been, for the last millennium, the stage for an incessant ideological and cultural competition between these two traditions. For, despite the vicissitudes of history, Central Europe in the course of time has developed into a specific cultural context with a tradition of its own.

Northwestern University's Summer 2012 in Prague offers students an opportunity to look at Europe from the center -- a continually evolving viewpoint that draws reference from both the East and West. It offers a selection of courses which will familiarize students with the forces that are shaping the European continent.

The City:

Prague is one of the best preserved historical cities of Europe. Since the ninth century, when it became the capital of Bohemia, Prague has passed through several distinct transformations which have inscribed it with its unique character. The original Romanesque city core was expanded considerably in Gothic style, especially during the reign of Charles IV, who also established a university in Prague in 1348. The Counter-Reformation of the seventeenth century and the eighteenth century added a thick Baroque layer to the physiognomy of the city. Finally, around the turn of the century, Prague was made into a modern European metropolis, adding many Art Nouveau elements.

Living Arrangements:

Students will stay in Dům Jeronýma Pražského - Jerome House a newly renovated dormitory located in downtown Prague. Accommodations will be in double bedroom suites, with shared bathrooms and kitchen space. All rooms are equipped with phones and computer outlets.

The Academic Program:

The Program is organized in cooperation with our partner institution ,CHP. It is six weeks in length. All courses are taught in English and two courses constitute a normal full-time load. The courses meet from Monday morning through Thursday. The faculty of distinguished Czech scholars is drawn from several of Prague's major academic institutions, including the Czech Academy of Sciences and Charles University.

Field trips constitute an integral part of the pro-gram curriculum and are organized to visit important historical sites in and outside of Prague.

Students must choose two courses from the following list. Although it is not mandatory, the Czech language course is strongly recommended for all students to facilitate their integration into their surroundings.

Students enroll in two of the following courses for two Northwestern credits:

MODERN CZECH FILM: The course provides a deeper insight into the issues of modern Czechoslovak history and socio-cultural developments as documented by both major feature films and documentaries. Viewed against the general backdrop of key historical events, the participants will gain more intimate knowledge and understanding of the unique modern Central European experience as interpreted by famous film makers many of which helped create the phenomenon of the Czech New Wave (Academy Award Laureates Miloš Forman and Jiří Menzel among them). Film screenings will include films covering World War II., the Stalinist Fifties, the period of political and cultural thaw of the Sixties, the most significant works of the post-1968 Soviet invasion years as well as post-1989 Velvet Revolution trends and controversies of the Czech film art. (Ivana Doležalová)

CHALLENGES TO EUROPEAN POLITICS: The course explores processes of transition from authoritarian rule to democracy in Europe and the aftermath of such a transition. The course is comparative by its nature and presents general issues on case studies from Western, Central and Eastern Europe. The material is presented in two perspectives: perspective of a political scientist and perspective of a leading protagonist of the transition process in the Central and Eastern Europe.

The course starts with a discussion of Europe as a geopolitical entity and identifies its main divisions. It characterizes European non-democratic regimes of the past and turns towards dissident activities of Central and Eastern Europe, deals with theories of transition as well as specific instances of such a transition. Fundamental challenges to democratization - nationalism, legacy of the past - are discussed in conclusion of the course. (Vladimíra Dvořáková)

MILESTONES OF THE CZECH HISTORY AND CIVILIZATION: The course provides an introduction to cultural aspects of Czech and in broader sense Central European environment. It concentrates on major historical events and processes that have shaped future developments in the area and contributed to various aspects of the Czech national identity. Cultural awareness is initiated through readings and lectures followed by discussions. An integral part of the course are visits to historically important sites in Prague and the Czech Republic.

Participants are expected to gain a background knowledge of the region's history and civilization, to understand and examine issues of social changes and their effects on and interaction with social fabric of the nation. The course is complemented with reading and analysis of important fiction of respective époques. (Petr Bílek, Pavel Sládek)

ELEMENTARY CZECH: The course is designed to give students the ability to handle everyday situations in Czech by focusing on listening and reading comprehension, speaking and beginning writing skills, introduction to Czech grammar. It is a full fledged university language course. (Jitka Kauerová)

STAFF



ZDENĚK STARÝ
Program Director



ALŽBĚTA
Program Coordinator



VAŠEK
Office Manager



ELIŠKA
Accountant

FACULTY



JITKA KAUEROVÁ
Elementary Czech



IVANA DOLEŽALOVÁ
Modern Czech Film

FACULTY



PETR BÍLEK



PAVEL SLÁDEK

Milestones of Czech History and Civilization

FACULTY



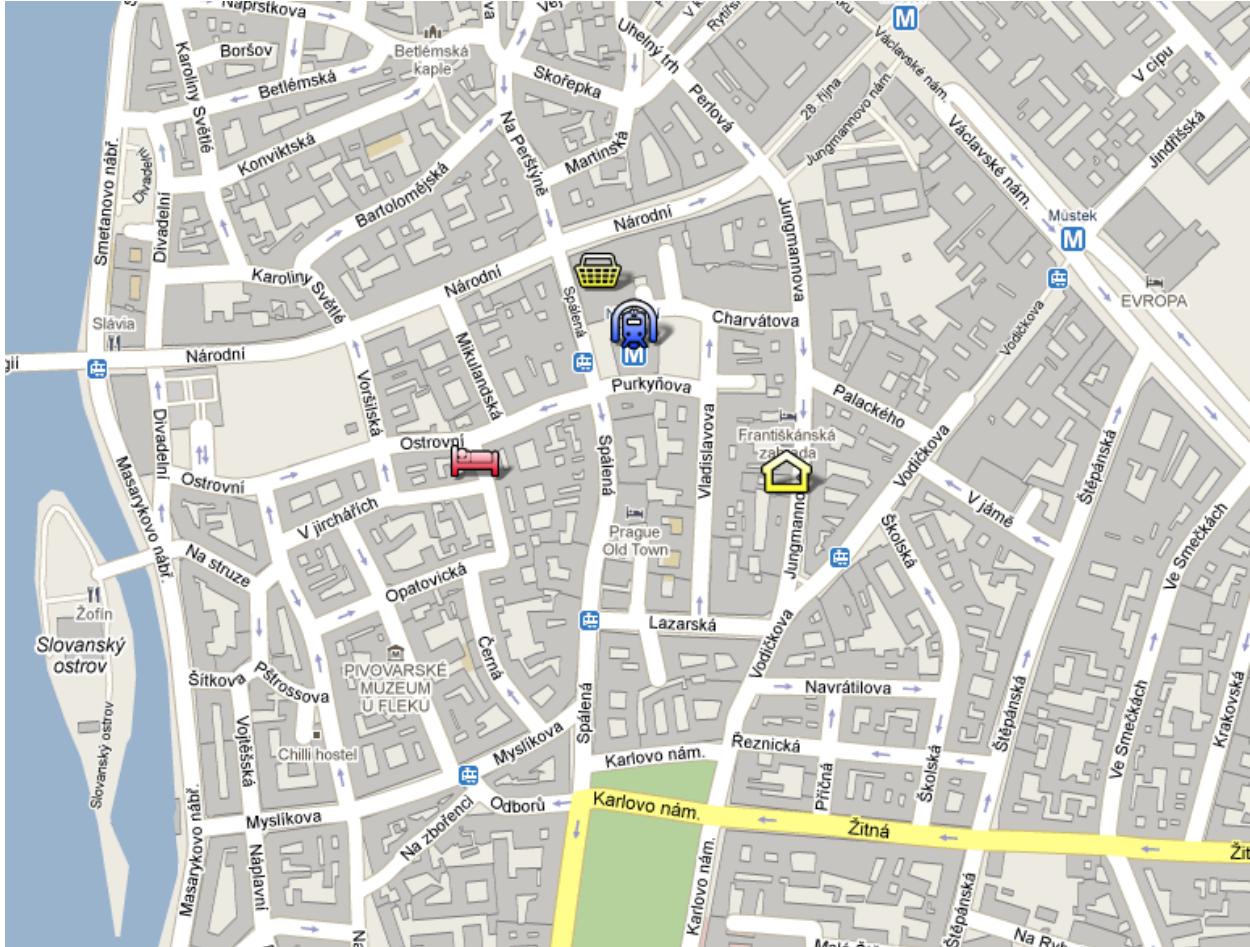
VLADIMÍRA DVOŘÁKOVÁ



PETR VYMĚTAL

Challenges to European Politics

LOCATION



STUDY CENTER



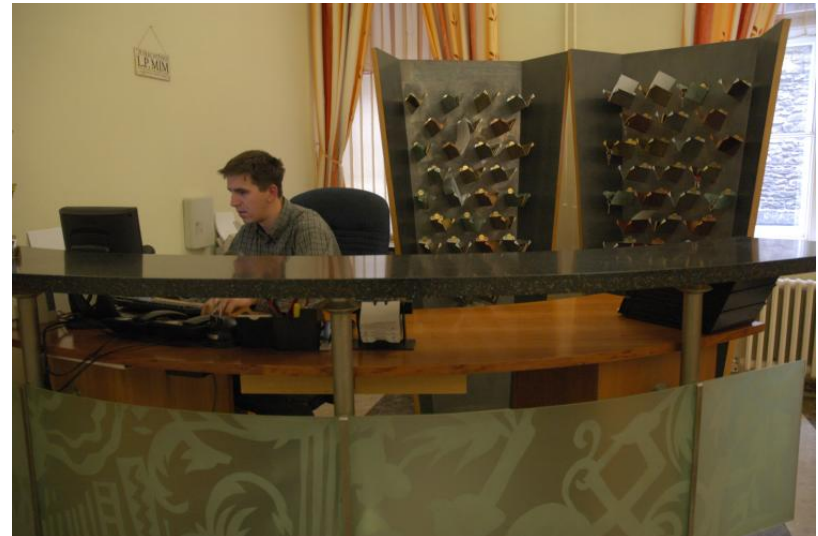
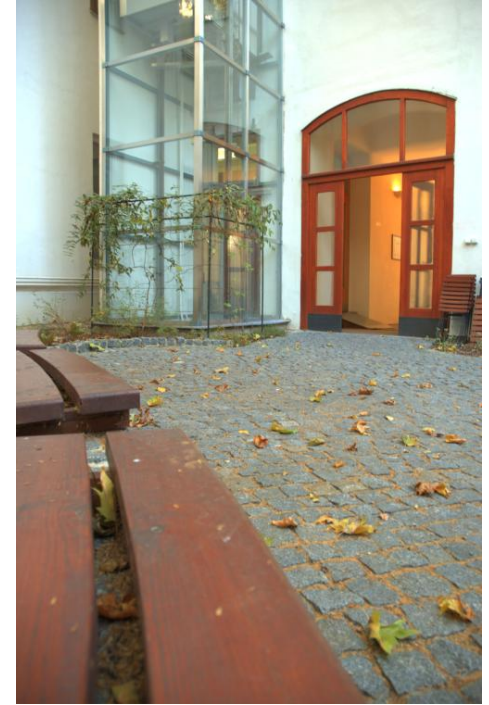
STUDY CENTER



DORMITORY: Students will stay in *Dům Jeronýma Pražského - Jerome House* a newly renovated dormitory located in downtown Prague. Accommodations will be in double bedroom suites, with shared bathrooms and kitchen space. All rooms are equipped with phones and computer outlets.



DORMITORY



EXCURSIONS

Kutná Hora

The history of **Kutná Hora** silver mines reached its climax in 14th and 15th centuries, when it was one of the richest places in Europe, where silver was found and extracted. The dominant and boast of Kutná Hora is its St. Barbara's Cathedral, considered one of the most impressive gothic cathedrals in Central Europe. Since 1995 Kutná Hora is on the UNESCO world heritage list.

Students also stop in nearby Sedlec to see the Ossuary, a chapel decorated with human bones.



EXCURSIONS

Southern Bohemia

Students stay overnight in České Budějovice. This South Bohemia metropolis was founded in the 13th century. The old town preserves interesting architecture, buildings around the large town square, the old town hall with murals and bronze gargoyles, and the town “Black tower”. It is world famous for the Budweiser beer, pencil production and the horse-drawn railroad line connecting České Budějovice to Linz was the oldest public line in continental Europe.

The next day, they continue to the jewel of Southern Bohemia - Český Krumlov. Special care has been devoted to preservation of historical features of Český Krumlov. The historical centre was added to the UNESCO cultural and natural heritage list in 1992. The dominant feature of the town is its Gothic church, the castle, which is one of the largest castles in Central Europe, was founded before 1250. The castle gardens were designed in the French style and provide opportunity for beautiful walks. There is also a unique Baroque theatre dating to the 18th century. The last stop of this trip is Zlatá Koruna, Cistercian monastery founded by King Přemysl Otakar II in 1263. Standing by the river, it has an unforgettable atmosphere.



EXCURSIONS

Terezín and Litoměřice

The town of Terezín (Theresienstadt) was founded in 1780 by Emperor Josef II., originally as an impregnable military fortress. During the period of Nazi occupation of World War II, in 1940, while under the control of the Gestapo, the town of Terezín was turned into a Jewish ghetto. Although only used as a temporary holding place before transporting victims on to other death camps, nevertheless 36,000 out of 160,000 prisoners that passed through Terezín, lost their lives within the walls of the town.



After visiting Terezín, students continue to a nearby town of Litoměřice that is located at the confluence of the Labe and Ohře rivers and is one of the oldest and most beautiful Czech towns. Especially the well preserved houses in the historical heart of the town are worth seeing but there is also a great opportunity for walking in the fortification parklands with a view over old Litoměřice, the Cathedral hill and the panorama of the Czech Central Mountains, Hazmburk and the memorable Říp mountain.



EXCURSIONS

Southern Moravia

This trip starts in Telč, a charming little town surrounded by the ponds, with the castle and a very well preserved historic centre, all in the Renaissance or baroque style, protected by UNESCO since 1992.

Then students continue to Mikulov, where the wine tasting takes place and the accommodation is arranged. This town became famous with its autumn South-Moravian pilgrimages. Besides the castle, the Dietrichstein Family tomb from the mid-19th century and the Late Gothic rectory Church of St. Wenceslas are the city dominants. Mikulov was famous with its religious tolerance, since the 16th till the 19th century there was the seat of the rabbinate.

The next morning, Punkva Caves follow. In the Moravian Karst area, there are more than 1100 caverns and gorges. One of them is the Punkva Cave with its underground river – during the cruise you reach the bottom of the famous Macocha Abyss.

Finally, the last stop is in Brno, the second biggest town in the country. The most interesting places to see are the Petrov Hill with the Cathedral of St Peter and Paul, Old Town Hall, the Špilberk Fortress, once an Austrian political prison, nowadays a museum and gallery and Villa Tugendhat, designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (built 1928-30), one of the most stunning functionalist buildings.

